

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image editing apparatus which joints a plurality of images in time, comprising:
  - a recording device which records a plurality of images associated with image related information including at least one of a shooting date and time, a shooting condition, a shooting place, and a user name;
  - a video effect recording device which records image related information associated with a video effect during image switching;
  - a comparison device which reads first image related information about a first image recorded in the recording device and second image related information about a second image recorded in the recording device, and compares the image related information about the first and second images;
  - a video effect selection device which reads from the video effect recording device a video effect during image switching according to matching image related information when there is the matching image related information between the image related information about the first and second images as a result of the comparison;
  - an image joining device which reads the first and second images recorded in the recording device, and joins the images by applying the video effect during image switching read by the video effect selection device to a portion in which the images are to be joined in time; and
  - an output device which outputs the joined images.
  
2. An image editing apparatus which joints a plurality of images in time, comprising:
  - a recording medium loading unit which loads a recording device for recording a plurality of images associated with image related information including at least one of a shooting date and time, a shooting condition, a shooting place, and a user name;
  - a video effect recording device which records a range of image related information associated with a video effect during image switching;
  - a comparison device which reads first image related information about a first image recorded in the recording device and second image related information about a second image recorded in the recording device, and compares the image related information about the first and second images;

a video effect selection device which reads from the video effect recording device a video effect during image switching according to image related information similar in a predetermined range when there is image related information similar in a predetermined range between the image related information about the first and second images as a result of the comparison;

an image joining device which reads the first and second images recorded in the recording device, and joins the images by applying the video effect during image switching read by the video effect selection device to a portion in which the images are to be joined in time; and

an output device which outputs the joined images.

3. An image editing apparatus which joints a plurality of images in time, comprising:

a recording device which records a plurality of images associated with image related information including at least one of a shooting date and time, a shooting condition, a shooting place, and a user name;

a video effect recording device which records a range of image related information associated with a video effect during image switching;

a comparison device which reads first image related information about a first image recorded in the recording device and second image related information about a second image recorded in the recording device, and compares the image related information about the first and second images;

a video effect selection device which reads from the video effect recording device a video effect during image switching according to image related information similar in a predetermined range when there is image related information similar in a predetermined range between the image related information about the first and second images as a result of the comparison;

an image joining device which reads the first and second images recorded in the recording device, and joins the images by applying the video effect during image switching read by the video effect selection device to a portion in which the images are to be joined in time; and

an output device which outputs the joined images.

4. An image editing program for use in an image editing apparatus having a recording device which records a plurality of images associated with image related information including at least one of a shooting date and time, a shooting condition, a shooting place, and a user name, a video effect recording device which records a range of image related information associated with a video effect during image switching, a comparison device which compares image related information about a first image with image related information about a second image, a video effect selection device which reads from the video effect recording device a video effect during image switching depending on a comparison result, an image joining device which joins a first image with a second image by applying the video effect during image switching to the first and second images, an output device which outputs the joined images, and an information processing device which controls the recording device, the video effect recording device, the comparison device, the video effect selection device, the image joining device, and the output device, the image editing program comprising the steps of:

reading in the comparison device first image related information about a first image recorded in the recording device and second image related information about a second image recorded in the recording device, and comparing the image related information about the first and second images;

reading in the video effect selection device from the video effect recording device a video effect during image switching according to image related information similar in a predetermined range when there is image related information similar in a predetermined range between the image related information about the first and second images as a result of the comparison;

reading the first and second images recorded in the recording device, and joining in the image joining device the images by applying the video effect during image switching read by the video effect selection device to a portion in which the images are to be joined in time; and

outputting in the output device the joined images.

5. An image editing method for use in an image editing apparatus having a recording device which records a plurality of images associated with image related information including at least one of a shooting date and time, a shooting condition, a shooting place, and a user name, a video effect recording device which records a range of image related information

associated with a video effect during image switching, a comparison device which compares image related information about a first image with image related information about a second image, a video effect selection device which reads from the video effect recording device a video effect during image switching depending on a comparison result, an image joining device which joins a first image with a second image by applying the video effect during image switching to the first and second images, and an output device which outputs the joined images, comprising the steps of:

reading first image related information about a first image recorded in the recording device and second image related information about a second image recorded in the recording device, and comparing the image related information about the first and second images, in the comparison device;

reading in the video effect selection device from the video effect recording device a video effect during image switching according to image related information similar in a predetermined range when there is image related information similar in a predetermined range between the image related information about the first and second images as a result of the comparison;

reading the first and second images recorded in the recording device, and joining the images by applying the video effect during image switching read by the video effect selection device to a portion in which the images are to be joined in time, in the image joining device; and

outputting in the output device the joined images.